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WASHTENAW COUNTY RURAL SCHOOLS HISTORY SERIES
Introduction
by Cyndy McCollum Steward

School records, if they have survived and can be located, can provide a wealth of information about children and their early school experiences. In Washtenaw County, much of this type of information is found in the Michigan Historical Collections, the Washtenaw Intermediate School District records, 1834-1966, box 1, records, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Per the finding aid, "the records have been arranged into four series: Nineteenth Century records; Manuscript School Histories; Annual Statistical Reports; and Maps. The Annual Statistical Reports were for the Washtenaw County Township Clerk. These volumes, dating from the school year 1902/03 to 1924/25, provide detailed information about the schools in the townships of the county. Included is the name of child, name of parent or guardian, number of children by sex, attendance records, names of teachers, and budget and salary information."

Also described in the finding aid of the collection are the Manchester Area Historical Society records, 1837-1955 (majority within 1870-1952) as follows: "School records, for Washtenaw County Townships, notably Manchester, Sharon, Freedom, and Bridgewater. This record group consists of collected school records in the period between 1837 and 1955. The record group has been arranged by the name of township: Manchester, Sharon, Freedom, and Bridgewater. The school records document financial transactions, as well as school board meeting minutes, student rolls, teacher contracts, and annual reports." Another item of value in the collection is a Washtenaw County atlas indicating school district boundaries of the 1950s which may aid in determining which school your ancestor may have attended.

We will be providing excerpts from these records by township, not only of names, but a few examples of what was written in the "Rural School Histories" created in 1941, to further encourage you to pursue researching these records in greater depth. Along with the names of teachers and students, these records often provide the names of early directors and settlers, officers, and people interviewed.

The narratives of the "Rural School Histories" were created in 1941 per the directives of Julius W. Haab, Superintendent of Schools in Washtenaw County (1939–1966) and were done primarily as a project by seventh and eighth grade elementary students. Many of the histories relied on information that was taken from the 1881 Charles C. Chapman's *History of Washtenaw County*, the 1906 Samuel W. Beakes' *Past and Present of Washtenaw County*, township records, maps and atlases, and interviews with long-time residents. A detailed description of the rural school history project can be found in the publication of the *Washtenaw Impressions*, Washtenaw County Historical Society, 1943, Vol. 1, No. 4 " Development in Rural Education in Washtenaw County", by Julius Haab; which is a transcription of a talk to the Society concerning his school history directive proposed in 1941. The *Washtenaw Impressions* is available on the website for the Washtenaw County Historical Society (Washtenaw County Michigan | Washtenawhistory.org | United States).

Julius W. Haab was born in Freedom Township on May 18, 1895, to Albert E. & Lydia Stierle Haab. A search for more information revealed that he attended The University of Michigan. In 1919-1920 he is listed in a program of the University Choral Union as being a bass. The 1921 Michigan Alumnus, Volume 27, page 399 states he is of the class of '20 and is employed by the Peoples State Bank of Detroit, Michigan, residing at 904 West Forest Ave., Detroit.

He married Louise Salchow Allenbaugh, Feb. 16, 1927. They moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan and lived at 1017 Woodbridge Blvd. The house was included in the Old West Side Home Tour of 2017. He was Superintendent of Schools in Washtenaw County from 1939 until his retirement in 1966. In a newspaper article in [The Saline] *Reporter*, 16 March 1955, held by Central Michigan University Newspapers Collections, Mr. Haab was appointed to serve on the Regional White House Conference on Education which was held that year in Ann Arbor for Washtenaw, Jackson, Hillsdale, Lenawee, and Monroe Counties. The article said the one-day

conference was the first of its kind and was "dedicated to a complete study of conditions facing schools, and to the recommendation of measures to meet the problem."

His obituary in the Ann Arbor News, July 29, 1968, stated he died that morning at age 73. Survivors included his wife; sons Daniel of Detroit, Peter of Kalamazoo; brothers Edwin L., Otto H., and Oscar W.; a sister Mrs. Adolph (Alma R.) Bigge; all of Ann Arbor; 4 grandchildren and unnamed nieces and nephews. The funeral was conducted by Rev. Norbert Mueller (St. Paul Lutheran) and he was buried at Washtenong Memorial Park from Muehlig Chapel (funeral home).

LYNDON TOWNSHIP RURAL SCHOOLS

compiled by Cyndy Steward and Marcia McCrary

This is the first in a series which will eventually cover the rural schools in each of the Washtenaw County townships. This could not have been attempted without the dedicated work of Nancy H Krohn whose collection, transcription, and preliminary drafts of the school materials, provided a wealth of materials for us to share. Marty Carr, Kathy Allbaugh and other volunteers performed proof reading of the drafts.

Each article will include a list of schools, location, school directors, students, teachers, information from the 1941 school histories and financial materials as found, as well as what materials have already been printed in the *Family History Capers*.

Lyndon Township (Township 1 South Range 3 East of the Michigan Meridian) is found in the far northwest corner of Washtenaw County.

School Name	**Section**	**School Number**	**Location in Section**	**Road**
Canfield Fractional	35	3	NW ¼ SE ¼	Waterloo Road west of M-52
Collins Plains	9	5	NW ¼ NW ¼	Boyce Road, west of Roepke
First School	18			
Heatley/Hadley to Pumpkin	14	4	NE ¼ NE ¼	Hadley Road west of Goodband
Howe Fractional	32	14	NW ¼ SE ¼	Waterloo Road, west of Bush Guinan Drive
Lakeview	?	10	?	Boyce Road?
Lyndon Center	21	11	NW ¼ NE ¼	N. Territorial Rd east of M-52
McIntee Fractional	19	12	SW ¼ NW ¼	Cassidy and Beeman
Pumpkin College	23	4	SE ¼ NE 1/4	Off N. Territorial Rd, east of Island Lake Rd.

Listed here are the LYNDON TOWNSHIP articles already published in *Family History Capers:*

1. 1874 Atlas plat map and index of names: Capers v. 34 issue 2 p. 35, 36
2. 1895 Atlas plat map and index of names: Capers v. 9 issue 1 p. 11
3. "Washtenaw Co., Mi School Directory 1925-1926 Lyndon Twp.": Capers v. 36 issue 3 p.52

The following information is from the "**Manual of the Public Schools of Washtenaw Count, MI, Lyndon Township, for the year 1898-1899"**

District 3. Director, Chas. Stapish, Chelsea. Moderator, Fred Winkerman, Assessor, Theo Mohrlok.
District 4. Director, Frank Lusty, Chelsea. Moderator, H. V. Watts, Assessor, Geo. Miller.
District 5. Director, Thos. Young, Chelsea. Moderator, Samuel Boyce, Assessor, W. J. Pickell.

District 10. Director, Harrison Hadley, Unadilla, Moderator, J. Sullivan, Assessor, L. K. Hadley.
District 11. Director, John Clark, Chelsea. Moderator, H. S. Barton, Assessor, Edward Shanahan.
District 12. Director, D. Cooper, Waterloo. Moderator, O. Gorton, Assessor, O. Beeman.
District 14. Director, Gerald Dealy, Chelsea. Moderator, John Runciman, Assessor, John Walsh

The entries below are from the "**Washtenaw County, Michigan, School Directory 1931-1932":**

Canfield School No. 3 Fractional District
Director: Eugene H. McKernan, Chelsea, R. 3. Moderator: Theodore Buehler, Chelsea, R. 3.
Treasurer: Leon Clark, Chelsea, R. 3. Teacher: Mildred Breitenwischer, 1st Gr. St. Ex. '33, Chelsea

Pumpkin College School No. 4
Director: Homer Stoffer, Chelsea, R. 3. Moderator: William Fox, Chelsea, R. 3,
Treasurer: Alexander Gilbert, Chelsea, R. 3. Teacher: Lucille Camburn, Life, Gregory.

Collins Plains School No. 5
Director: Emery Pickell, Gregory. Moderator: Howard Boyce, Stockbridge.
Treasurer: Earl Wheeler, Gregory. Teacher: Mildred Loper, 2ndGr., St. Ex '33, Gregory.

Lake View School No. 10
Director: D. R. Atkinson, Gregory, R. 2. Moderator: Francis May, Gregory, R. 2.
Treasurer: Mrs. John Sullivan, Gregory, R. 2. Teacher: Florence Greiner, Life, Gregory.

Lyndon Center School No. 11
Director: John Young, Munith, R. 3. Moderator: Guy A. Barton, Munith, R. 3.
Treasurer: James Howlett, Chelsea, R. 4. Teacher: Phyllis McCleer, 1st Gr., St. Ex. '33 Gregory.

McIntee School No. 12 Fractional District
Director: Earl Beeman, Chelsea, R. 4. Moderator: Edward W. Cooper, Munith, R. 3.
Treasurer: Mrs. Helen Beeman, Chelsea, R. 4. Teacher: Veva Kalmbach, 2nd Gr., St. Ex. '34 Gregory.

Howe School No. 14, Fractional District
Director: Leo Guinan, Chelsea, R. 3. Moderator: George A. McClure, Chelsea, R. 3.
Treasurer: Marie Guinan, Chelsea, R. 3. Teacher: Lodema Rowe Pixley, Co. Nor. Ex. '33, Munith.

In the following section we have excerpted from the 1941 township school histories, giving an idea of what made each school unique.

Canfield Fractional School #3 (fractional with Sylvan Township)

Canfield was one of the three Lyndon schools mentioned in the reprint of the Julius Haab article in the Washtenaw County Historical Society's *Impressions* where he spotlighted from the Canfield History that spelling bees and Lyceums [debates] as one of the few forms of evening entertainment.

The school was named Canfield because it was built on a portion of the Canfield farm. The original schoolhouse was frame, built about 1851.

When lessons were recited, the pupils of the class had to stand with their toes on a certain line on the floor. The students believed that from this practice came the expression "You'll have to toe the mark".

In 1934, WPA funds and labor were used to replace windows

When attending evening events people brought their own candles, followed by kerosene lamps. Finally,

in 1939 electric lines were strung by Consumer's Power and 6 electric lights were installed in the schoolhouse.

The first enrollment found was about the year 1862 and it is not complete.

Name		Name
CANFIELD, Lester		PURCHASE, Ella
CANFIELD, Mary		SMITH, George
MALLONY, Tim		SMITH, Lucy
McNAMARA, Tommy		STAPISH, Josephine
MOORE, Phoebe		REED, Sarah, teacher

Students 1940-1941

BAUER, Norman	1st			KEEZER, Maxine	4th	
BAUER, Robert	5th			KEEZER. Ralph (Kenny)	6th	
BAUER, Walter	3rd			KEEZER, Walter	8th	
BUKU, David	B	Beginner		KISS, Richard	4th	
BUKU, Earl	4th			KISS, Rose	8th	
CLARK, Dean	B	Beginner		KLOBUCHAR, Esther	3rd	
CLARK, Duane	7th			KLOBUCHAR, Mary	2nd	
CLARK, Nancy	3rd			ROHDE, Alvin	B	Beginner
CLARK, Virgil	B	Beginner		ROHDE, Ernest	3rd	
FERRY, Elaine	2nd			ROHDE, Reuben	5th	
FERRY, Willard	7th			SULLIVAN, Evelyn	6th	
KEEZER, Marvin	B	Beginner		WHIPPLE, Enid	6th	
				MITTEER, Mrs. Helen	teacher	

The 1940-1941school board members were: Director Mr. Orson Clark, Moderator Mr. Frank Klobuchar, and Treasurer Mr. Elton Behler.

Miss Ella Purchase taught the Canfield school about the year 1873 in the spring term. She received $3.00 per month and got her living by boarding around. That is, she lived a week or so with one family then another family and so on, repeating if necessary until the term ended. In that year, a part of [it] anyway the enrollment was: Carrie Moore, a Beuhler boy, Agnes, Eddie and Will Stapish, Liz and Kate Gherity, Charles Clark, Will Clark and Willie McLaughlin.

Some other teachers not already mentioned were: Ellen Tichner-1863, Marian Purchase-1875, Carrie Purchase-1888, Lily Girard-1899. Others since 1900 were: Barbara Schycrawth, Mary Whalen, Edith Noise, Helen Burke, Blanche Wirkner and Sadie Foster.

Entertainment included spelling bees, and later debates (Lyceums) with Pumpkin College, one topic being: “Resolved: the best place to live is the country rather than the city”.

Some of the families living around the school included: Bauer, McNamara, Otto, Klobuchar, Lusty, Duffy,

McLauglin, Canfield (widow of George), Keezer, McKernon (director for many years before Mr. Clark), Stapish, Rohde, Moore, Ferry, Beuhler, Sullivan, Whipple, Buku, Kiss, and Ormand Clark.

Collins Plains School #5

The students indicated that in 1818 surveyors visited what will become Lyndon Twp. The first settlement was established in 1833 (August) by the three Collins brothers; Selah B. Collins, Josiah H. Collins, & Harrison U. Collins in what is now known as "Collins Plains".

Another unnamed Collins brother, newly married, arrived on Jan. 1, 1834. Seliah B. Collins also married and built the first log house that year. This was also the first time that the soil was cultivated in the township. The first male child born in the township was Colwin O. Collins, who was born Dec. 11th, 1834. Independence Day was first celebrated in the township in 1834.

The first school was erected in 1837. Its first teacher was J. K. Yocum. Some early teachers were: Tom Young, Samuel Boyce, Austin Rowe, Charles Foster and Mrs. Deliah Smith. In1880-1881 the School Inspector was Henry Gorton.

As near as they could determine "the first school was built in the northwest corner where Boyce Road and Roepke Road cross. It was a log school. The man that taught there made shingles at night and taught school during the day. Later the frame school which is still in use [1941] was built farther up on the Boyce Road. The first teacher in the new school was Angel Green."

Lakeview School #10

[Ed. Note: *The editorial staff has not been able to identify the exact location of Lakeview School. In the 1941 history, the students mentioned it as being on the stagecoach route from Dexter to Dansville*.]

The students wrote that they especially enjoyed talking to the old people.

Some Teachers and Salaries from Lakeview 1865-1874, and 1941, from the 1941 History

Name	**Salary**	**Record Year**
THOMPSON, B.F.	9 Shill per week	1865
HARFORD, Minerva	14 Shill per week	1866
TALCOTT, Susan E.	22 Shill per week	1867
TALCOTT, Susan E.	12 Shill per week	1868
TALCOTT, Julia A.	22 Shill per week	1868
GLENN, Adella E.	20 Shill per week	1869
CALKINS, J. M.	25 Shill per week	1869
GLENN, Nella E	22 Shill per week	1870
WEBB, Ann	1 Dollar per day	[blank]
WEBB, Ann	82/1.00	[blank]
FRISBEE, Ella V.	1 per day	1871
FRISBEE, Alice	3.00 per week	1872
WEBB, Anna	1.25 per week	1872
PURCHASE, Mariam	2.20 per week	1873
DENTON, Jamie	1 & 12.5/1.00	1873
OZINGA, Anna	3.00 per week	1874
SMITH, Mary An	22.5	1874
GORTON, Esther	$75.00 per month	1940-41

The first school was a log cabin, 14x18 feet. They commented that "the welfare of the pupils was very little considered, if any, for the lighting and seating conditions were very bad." The teacher's desk was two log benches. Mr. Ed Collins, who was still living in April 1941 [Ed.note: *He died May 6, 1941, at the age of 91, and is buried at North Lake Cemetery*] went to school in this log cabin. He started when he was six years old. He has his first report card and primer (reader) given him by his teacher. There were slates to write on and the students were punished for making squeaking noises.

Mrs. Ida Johnson remembered seeing students having to wear a "dunce cap", the old plaster ceiling smeared with paper wads, and the students bringing lunch in dinner pails.

Mrs. Lou Hopkins Marshall recounted a story of Vet Bullis (now living in Gregory) and his sisters, and missing lunches.

The Director, Mrs. Cris Fitzsimons, purchased wallpaper in Ann Arbor in 1940. The bill of $3.20 was paid off by raising money at a party in the hall above the store in Unadilla. The party netted $13.60 which was enough for paint for the woodwork as well. Volunteers who did the painting and papering were: Mrs. John Sullivan, Virginia Sullivan, Mrs. Chris Fitzsimons, Mrs. Pauline Clark, Eloise Kunzelman, Mrs. Francis May, and Erston Clark.

Electricity became available in 1940 from Consumers Power, allowing for lights. and cooking noon meals. The best escalloped potatoes were made by Eveline Golding and Freddie Kaiser. Lou Fitzsimons was a good dishwasher. Charley Sullivan cooked bacon and eggs. Bill Hadley stirred the prunes.

In September 1940 the enrollment was 7. Frank Kocran moved to Salem, and Dwight Kunzelman moved to Plainsfield, leaving the school with 5 pupils: Eveline Golding, Wilfred Hadley, Charley Sullivan, Freddie Kaiser, Lou Fitzsimons, and their teacher Esther Gorton of Unadilla.

The members of the Board in September 1940 were: Laura Fitzsimons, director; Iona May, treasurer; Allen Kaiser, moderator. In March, Francis May was appointed treasurer to fill the vacancy caused by the sudden death of his wife, Iona May.

Each year in May, there was a Music Festival held in Ann Arbor. The teachers attended monthly music meetings to learn the songs used in the festival. Charley Sullivan took part in the 1941 festival held at Hill Auditorium. Ida Johnson remembered singing schools at North Lake once a month. People from Pumpkin College, North Lake, Lake View (which had no name then) would be present. At the singing school, boys sat on one side, and girls on the other. Mr. Watts, who lived next door to the school, took the children either in a wagon or sleigh, depending on the weather.

Others remembered going to University Camp and Game Preserve on Patterson Lake (on land donated to the U of M by Colonel George). Henry Ford donated a sidewheel paddle boat that the children were allowed to steer.

Stephen Hadley told the students that the well was plugged by Mr. Heatley so his cows wouldn't get mired in the mud. Mr. Heatley could out-spell all at the spelling bee. One of Stephen's teachers was Mr. Watts.

Lyndon Center School #11

"Some Teachers of Lyndon Center School" was previously published in *Family History Capers* v. 9 issue 1 p. 9.

"There have been three different schoolhouses in this community as well as the first private school in the township which was Angeline Green's held in 1836 in a log building near her father's home, about one-half mile

south of the present school. The first schoolhouse was a log one located about one mile northwest of Lyndon Center on M-92 in the edge of John Young's woods on section 17." Sam Boyce (born in 1859, son of Spencer Boyce, son of Samuel Boyce who settled there in 1834), said that John K. Yocum was the first teacher.

Other people mentioned were:
Clinton Skidmore, age 86, nephew of Elnathan Skidmore;
Mrs. Frank Rose, daughter of Samuel Boyce and granddaughter of Mary Wallace Boyce;
Lawrence Shanahan, grandson of Lawrence Shanahan;
George Sellars had three sons and three daughters, as well as a stepson;
Tim, Patrick, John and Martin McKune- four brothers;
Nathan Rose; John Green; Jesse Rose;
James Gorman; Henry Drake; Mr. Wallace;
Thomas Clark; Hiram S. Barton; Samuel West.

The students listed some settlers from 1830 to 1860 who remembered the early schoolhouse.

The second school was built a few rods from center of the township about 1845, and used 8 to 10 years. Built at the intersection of M92 and M388 on North Territorial Road. In 1875, it was called Monroe and Grand River Road and was built about 50 feet east of where the school was in 1941.

Other names mentioned: Mrs. Hill (formerly Fannie Clark), Ed McGuire, Mrs. Whitaker (Anne Clark, daughter of Thomas Clark), Melvin Stofer, Bob Shanahan, Mrs. John Young.

The following School Census includes the name, age (in school census year of 1903-06 and 1909). *[Ed. Note: We do not know what the comment column date means.]*

LYNDON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL #11 SCHOOL CENSUS

Name	Residence	1903	1904	1905	1906	1909	Comment
BALMER, Claton					11	14	
BALMER, Dola					9	12	
BALMER, Elsa					6	9	
BALMER, Floyd						7	
BALMER, Homer						5	April 29 1919
BARTON, Bernice	Lyndon	15	16	17	18		
BARTON, Guy	Lyndon	19					
BUNTIN, Edward					8		
BUNTIN, Gladis					16		
CHAPMAN, Winferd						16	
CLARK, Irene	Lyndon	19					
MARSHALL, Addie	Lyndon		19				
McKUNE, Herbert	Lyndon	15	16	17	18		
McKUNE, Raymond	Lyndon	19					
McKUNE, Roland		17	18	19			
MURPHY, Alice						17	
MURPHY, Cecil						15	
MURPHY, James						5	Aug 14 1918
MURPHY, Louis						18	
MURPHY, Vincent						14	
O'CONNOR, Arthur	Lyndon		14	15			

O'CONNOR, Dara	Lyndon		16	17			
O'CONNOR, John	Lyndon		19				
O'CONNOR, Joseph			10	11			
O'CONNOR, Mary	Lyndon		18	19			Nov 4 1915
O'CONNOR, Sarah	Lyndon		12	13			
OTTO, John	Lyndon			5	6	9	Aug 6 1916
OTTO, Mary					5	8	Dec 25 1915
OTTO, Monica						7	
ROEPEKE, Alice	Lyndon	10	11	12	13	16	
ROEPEKE, Bessie	Lyndon	14	15	16	17		
ROEPEKE, Doris	Lyndon	5	6	7	8	11	
ROEPEKE, Frank	Lyndon	8	9	10	11	14	
ROEPEKE, Freda						[blank]	
ROEPEKE, Henry	Lyndon	11	12	13	14	17	
ROEPEKE, Lucile						8	
SEXTON, Robert	Lyndon	15	16				
SHANAHAN, Lawrance	Lyndon	15	16	17	18		
SHANAHAN, William (Willie)	Lyndon	12	13	14	15	18	
WIRKNER, Arthur	Lyndon	13					
WIRKNER, Hellen	Lyndon	16					
YOUNG, Agnes	Lyndon	8	9	10	11	14	
YOUNG, Claire	Lyndon	12	13	14	15	18	

Mrs. Whittaker remembered students from the second school:
Mary and Minnie Steffey; Abbie Barton; James Moran and his sisters and brothers; McKunes; Kate, Alice and Jennie Gorman, children of James Gorman; James, George, Ed, Mary Ann, and Kate Shanahan; John and Kate Clark, brother and sister of Mrs. Anne Clark Whittaker; Lill and Margaret Farrel; Thomas Young, Jr. and brother Ed, and sisters Libbie and Mary Young.

Mrs. Hill remembered some others who came here:
Anna and George McDonnell and brother; John Moran family; Mrs. Hill sisters Elvira and Elmira and brother Charles; Patrick McKune's family. Mrs. Hill remembered that Kate Clark, and John Riley were two of her teachers.

Mrs. Clinton Skidmore came to help with the spelling bee in 1873, and remembered Aron Avery, a teacher.

Mrs. Wm. Otto (Mary McKune born in 1877 and daughter of John McKune) was interviewed. She named some students who went to this third school when she did:
Lucy and Renie Farrel (sister of Lill and Margaret) who had to wade through snow in the winter through Robert Johnson's field before they reached the road;
Bell West, daughter of Sam West;
Ed, Arthur, and Josephine Fallen;
Ruth and Herbert Young, children of Silas Young who owned land back of Otto's and a narrow strip of two acres as an outlet to the road;
Henry, Mary, Louis, Cecilia McKune, children of John McKune;
George, Ed, Kate, Rose, Agnes Young, children of L. Young who went to California in 1884;
George, Frank, Tracy, Henry, Kate, Fred, and Tommy Stapish;
George, Ed, May, Tom, Emmet, James, and Edith Gorman, children of George Gorman.
Mrs. Gordon of Waterloo, daughter of Wm. Purchase;
Cora, Laura, Emma, Arthur, Homer, Harriet, Harry, and George Stofer. children of Henry Stofer.

John Young and his younger brothers and sisters;
Thomas, Herbert, Cecil, James, Joseph, Irene, Gertrude Clark, children of John Clark and grandchildren of Thomas Clark who sold the land to the district for school purposes.

"There are many others no doubt who have come to school here, some are residents of the Lyndon Center today and descendants of the first settlers." Here are a few of them the students mentioned:
Lawrence Shanahan, son of James and grandson of Lawrence Shanahan
Irene Clark O'Connor, daughter of John Clark and granddaughter of Thomas Clark
Mary Otto, daughter of John McKune
Guy Barton, great grandson of Henry Drake and grandson of H. S. Barton
John Young, son of Thomas Young, senior
George Stofer, son of Henry Stofer.

"John Young, now 76 years old, said that there were sometimes as many as forty pupils in school in the winter when he came here; that the older boys all came in the winter and worked on the farms in the summer. In 1938 and '39 there were seven pupils, Louise and Louetta Buxton, James Nelson, Harold Balmer, Valentine Krokowiak, Robert Shanahan and Melvin Stofer. In 1939 and '40 there were six; in 1940-1941 there have been only four boys, Valentine Krokowiak, Bob Shanahan and Melvin Stofer and Louis Mowett. In 1913 there were twenty on the school census, twenty-six in 1919 while in 1940 there have been nine".

The directors for the district have been the following: Sylvester N. Clark 1869-1872; Ed Shanahan 1906–1909; John Young 1909–1912, 1915–1940; James Howlett 1912–1915; Lawrence Shanahan 1940–.

The treasurers the students mentioned were: Thomas Young 1869–1875, Thomas Clark 1875–1878, Samuel West 1879–1884, John Clark 1885–1893, Edward Shanahan 1893–1901, James Howlett 1902–1911, 1917–1941; and Henry Stofer 1911–1917.

H. S. Barton, Austin Balmer and Guy Barton have been the Moderators of the school beginning about 1910 and continuing many years.

The history was written by Ethil Cain, and helped by Bob Shanahan, and Melvin Stofer. [*Ed Note there is a map of the early settlers and a drawing of the school which was by Josephine McKinney in the copy of the School History at the Bentley Library.*

(To be continued)

Cyndy Steward *is a member of the Capers Editorial team and co-chair of the Cemetery Committee. She is also a member at large of the GSWC Board.*

Marcia McCrary *is also a member of the Capers Editorial team and currently GSWC First Vice-President. She has served the Society in many other positions.*

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ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWING TIPS: FLOOR PLANS

Part Two

By Jerome Drummond

(Continued from Vol. 47, No. 4, p. 77-79)

René Edouard Lusignan was related to one of the most famous and important men in Canada, and his brother Jules was determined that no one was going to know that his brother had died without a penny to his name. In the obituary published in Montréal the claim was made that René,

> "*avait su se créer, par son travail et son énergie, une position très enviable dans une maison anglaise. Il était gérant de la 'Detroit Motor Boat Specialty Co.'* […] *Les funérailles ont eu lieu à Détroit, au milieu d'une affluence considerable".*
>
> As I would translate it, he
>
> *"created by his work and energy an enviable position in an anglophone concern. He was the Director of the Detroit Motor Boat Specialty Co. The services were held in Detroit, amidst considerable affluence."*

While it was true that René did custom work on boats in the boathouse under the name Detroit Motor Boat Specialty Company it was a one or two man affair. René worked hard and did well up to the time that his diabetes took off, but then he was out of work for a year before his death. Prior to that he had lived well on credit, as was so common in the 20s.

As noted, when René died there was not enough money to heat the whole house so most living transpired in the Kitchen. The Dining Room was abandoned, and meals were served at the kitchen table with the three chairs. On that table there was a sugar bowl which did not contain sugar but rather was where Samantha hid cash, thinking that burglars would not look there.

Two hundred thirty-three years and eight hundred miles from where Jean Miel dit Lusignan set foot in North America, his great, great, great grandson was laid to rest in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, in a city that had been an outpost of the empire the earliest Lusignan had been sent to protect.

At far left is the sugar bowl that resided on the kitchen table and served as the hiding place for cash on hand in the home. At near left is a picture of my mother Jean Lusignan in the mid-1920s. The car is parked next to the boathouse.

Pictures from the author

The Alley

In the Alley were the ashcans – and they were true ash cans because they held the coal ashes from the cooking and heating stoves – as well as trash. This was picked up by the city of Detroit, but before it was, another person came down the alleyway; the *ragman*, or as he was called in Detroit neighborhoods, the *sheeny*.* The term "*ragman"* refers to a collector of worn-out cotton clothing which was used in paper mills to make "rag paper", that is, paper with a high cotton fiber content. In Jean's alley he drove a horse-drawn wagon. Jean, who was very fond of animals, liked to pet the ragman's horse, which was very gentle. The role of the ragman is old and lives on in one form or another. On trash collection day on my street in Ypsilanti it is not unusual to see pickup trucks stop curbside and the drivers collect scrap metal and building materials, old appliances, discarded bicycles, etc. which have been put out to the curb. They are the current model of a ragman.

* The term "sheeny", common historically in Detroit, is felt to be a derogatory term for a Jewish ragman; others don't think it's ethnic-specific or derogatory. I can't make an informed decision on the truth of the matter, but it is likely better to use the term "ragman".

The Dining Room

In the Dining Room was a table and a buffet in yellow oak which was very common in the 20s. The house was fully furnished although not in a fancy way. Samantha took in boarders at first after the death of her husband, and then she got a job working in the cafeteria kitchen of the home office of Bell Telephone on Griswold Street in downtown Detroit. Samantha did the best she could, but she fell into arrears with her house payment. The owner of the house floated her for quite a while as she was a widow with a small job and two girls to raise, but when he died his son inherited the house and had to put money into it, and so the family had to go. As they were now going to be living in an apartment the buffet and dining table and beds would not be coming along as well, so they were sold for a song and a dance. As it was now the beginning of the Great Depression it was a buyer's market for second-hand furniture. Talk of the dining table opens a new avenue of discussion.

> **Jean:** *And I can remember sitting at the dinner table stuffing envelopes for the guy across the street who worked for a coal company and they used to send out these things in their flyers like…advertising things".*
>
> **Yvette:** *"What did you make, a dollar a thousand?"*
>
> **Jean: "***Oh, I don't think it was that much, but we would all sit there the three of us stuffing those things – Mother, Eve and I – stuffing these things at night trying to make some money."*
>
> **Yvette: "***You know another thing Mother did when she was trying to make ends meet? She sold banks door to door."*
>
> **Jean:** *"A whole suitcase full of these little metal banks."*
>
> **Yvette:** *"Little tiny metal banks and they were advertising or something for one bank in town and she got a percentage or something."*
>
> **Jean:** *"She also cleaned a policeman's house who used to live down the alley from us."*
>
> **Yvette:** *"Paul S-------berg."*
>
> **Jean:** *"Yeah, Paul S-------berg. His wife left him or something and he went by himself into an apartment on Jefferson Avenue. He used to have my mother come down and clean it, and she used to take me with her sometimes and you could look down into Annunciation School and you could*

watch the kids throwing spit-wads at the nuns, even in those days. And Paul S-------berg was a policeman and he used to have girlie magazines on his tables and that was the first time I ever saw any and Mother got very upset because I got ahold of one of these magazines and was looking at the pictures."

Yvette: *"A Police Gazette."*

Jean: *"I guess that's what it was. I don't know what it was but it was a kind of magazine and it had these bare-naked ladies in it. I can remember she was very upset and she told him that when she was coming down to clean and there was a possibility that I was going to be with her he was to put these things away."*

The Boat House

Although the Lusignan house was not on the river there was a boat house in the back of the lot as can be seen in the floorplan. Jean's father René owned a boat which he kept in the boat house, but René, who was an electrician by trade, had a side business of installing custom lighting on boats as well as general boat repair. In the interior of the boathouse there was an elevated walkway around a central berth where the boat could be hoisted on pulleys for work on the hull.

René Lusignan and Herb Down on the Detroit River circa 1920 in René's boat. René had the idea of smuggling alcohol from Canada across the river when Prohibition began but came to realize that the competition would be very determined and dangerous. Herb Down was my mother Jean's uncle who came from London, Ontario for a time to make a go of it in Detroit but he didn't find it to his liking and returned to Canada. Photo owned by the author

An ad from Motor Boat Magazine in the 1920s for René Lusignan's motor boat customization business.

No Garage

Notably, there is one structure that is not indicated in my diagram, and that is a garage. Most houses in this time did not have a garage because the idea of owning an automobile was still exotic. Of my four grandparents, only René learned how to drive a car, and he owned two of them: a small foreign car to tool about town, and a large sedan (I believe it was a Model A) for longer trips, particularly those taken to London, Ontario. René was born in Montréal and came to live in Detroit in 1906. He was an electrician at a time when a lot of the world was not yet electrified and work abounded, work which he did, but he also worked for the Detroit entertainment baron John Kunsky, taking care of lighting in his theaters, which increasingly relied on movies instead of live theater for audiences. Samantha came from London, Ontario in 1909 and she landed a job as a vocalist for the Kunsky theaters. In the early days of movies, a projectionist had to change out the film reels manually and there was only one projector so the audience had to wait for

the next reel and in the meantime to entertain the audience my grandmother sang to the accompaniment of her friend Dorothy; that is how she made a living and how she met René.

London, Ontario was just a car ride away and so René drove his family there from time to time to visit Samantha's sister Hannah Jane (Forester) Down, who was called Jean, for whom my mother was named (and Hannah Jane was married to Herbert Down, which is why my middle name is Herbert; my mother wanted to honor her favorite uncle.) It was not unusual for my mother to spend a lot of time in London, so it was not out of the ordinary for her Uncle Herb to pick her up and take her home with him, and that is why Uncle Herb came for Samantha when René was dying. All of the adults felt that this was the right thing to do, and so Uncle Herb did not bring her back until he had received word that René had died, which my mother spoke of in part one of this article.

We don't realize today how fast the automobile seemed to be. Samantha was born in backwoods Ontario and walked everywhere. When my grandfather Joseph, born in 1872, rode on the streetcar in Detroit it was pulled by horses and averaged about six miles per hour. He tried to learn to drive but couldn't handle the speed. My Aunt Rosemary, his daughter, drove a Model T and her father would turn white as a sheet at twenty-five miles per hour.

That was the world without garages.

I could go on with many stories and expand on the ones above because almost every aspect of the house has some stories attached; a floor plan is a valuable tool in resurrecting long-buried memories. Among the themes covered in this article were grandfather's death, why grandmother got a job and where, the financial state of the family, where cash was kept, how the house was heated, the man in the Morris chair and what a Morris chair is, the sale of the furniture, what a ragman is and what they did,

You can put together many extensive and interrelated stories that will give you a full picture of the people who lived there. The home is where most of life is lived.

You may also find that objects indicated by the floor plan have been passed down as heirlooms in the family and the possessors of the objects may like to know those stories. You might even arrange a family reunion for people to come in and talk about their experiences with the home and its objects. It is also a handy way to document what artifacts there are and after discussion who should get them at the current holder's demise, for everyone to have so that this information is clear. Keep a copy with your estate papers. I can say from personal observation that everyone should know who is getting what from an estate because it can be surprising what some people will do at the dispersal of an estate. Attaching pictures of the objects is helpful in definitive identification. It is also useful to keep a copy in your safe deposit box at your banking institution for home insurance purposes. Likely your home insurer has already suggested this to you.

Jerome Drummond *is a frequent contributor and an Editor of the Family History Capers. He plans more chapters in this discussion on doing oral interviews!*

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STRAY HULL and Van BUREN MARRIAGE, 1908

Saline Observer, Thursday, May 21, 1908. p. 5.

Wilbur S. Hull, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hull of this place and Miss Lorena D. VanBuren of Ypsilanti, were married Wednesday, May 13. (Local Items)

Washtenaw County Farm Bureau and Washtenaw Junior Farm Bureau Membership 1944

Transcribed by Cyndy Steward

A booklet entitled: "Washtenaw County Farm Bureau and Washtenaw Junior Farm Bureau Membership 1944" has been donated to our society by GSWC member, David Doss. We wish to thank the Washtenaw County Farm Bureau Board of Directors for their permission and support in the sharing of the information in this booklet. We feel the information in this booklet is of value to our members that have ancestors and relatives in the Washtenaw County farming community and will be shared in the *Family History Capers* a few sections at a time as a series.

The booklet begins with a description of the organization and its objectives followed by listings of the Washtenaw Junior Farm Bureau Officers; the American Farm Bureau Federation Officers; Members of the various Regional Boards of Directors; Associated Women of the American Farm Bureau Federation representative; Officers and Directors of the State of Michigan Farm Bureau and of the Washtenaw County Farm Bureau. Then the directory alphabetically lists each member's name, address and Rural Route number grouped by township. Four Wayne County Townships and six Monroe County members are included. A list indicating name, address, and phone number for "Members of Washtenaw Junior Farm Bureau" completes the booklet.

We plan to share more names from this booklet in future issues.

Junior Farm Bureau Officers		
LAST, First	**Twp**	**Officer Title**
GALL, Albert	Saline	President
BRUESTLE, Robert	Manchester	Vice-President
HERTER, Selma	Ann Arbor	Secretary
LESSER, Mary	Dexter	Treasurer
SMALLEY, Ray		Counsellor
GALL, Albert Mrs.		Camp Chairman

Junior Farm Bureau Members		
LAST, First	**Twp**	**Phone**
ALBER, Billy	Manchester	150F3, Saline
BASSETT, Berl	Ann Arbor	25-8836
BASSETT, Virginia	Ann Arbor	25-8836
BERSUDER, Mildred	Ann Arbor	
BIGGS, Shirley	Manchester	3731, Man.
BINDER, Frederick	Dexter	
BOYCE, Llyod (Lloyd)	Stockbridge	48F5, Stock.

BRASSOW, Harold	Saline	
BOYCE, Max	Stockbridge	48F5, Stock.
BOYCE, Robert	Stockbridge	48F11, Stock.
BRAUN, Grace	Saline	183F31, Saline
BROWN, Dorothy	Ann Arbor	25-7842
BRUESTLE, Robert	Manchester	2632, Man.
BURMEISTER, Dick	Saline	
BURMEISTER, Leonard	Ann Arbor	148F12, Saline
BURMEISTER, Mildred	Ann Arbor	148F12, Saline
CAMMET, Ralph	Saline	143F2, Saline
DIETERLE, Marie	Saline	147F31, Saline
DIUBLE, Elmer	Ann Arbor	25-8806
DIUBLE, Harold	Ann Arbor	25-8806
DIUBLE, Wilbert	Ann Arbor	25-8806
EISELE, Marilyn	Manchester	150F22 Saline
EISELE, Robert	Manchester	150F22 Saline
ESCH, Ruth	Manchester	3535 Manchester
FELDKAMP, Arlene	Saline	196F12, Saline
FELDKAMP, Leon	Saline	136F13, Saline
FELDKAMP, Marian	Saline	136F13, Saline
FELDKAMP, Sylvia	Ann Arbor	2-2369
FIEGEL, Roland	Ann Arbor	25-7493
FINKBEINER, Alwin	Saline	198F4, Saline
FINKBEINER, Doris	Ann Arbor	7367
FINKBEINER, Warren	Clinton	142F21, Saline
FORHSEE, Dorothy	Ann Arbor	7725
FREY, Calvin	Ann Arbor	blank
FREY, Ruth	Ann Arbor	25-8685
GALL, Albert	Saline	143F22, Saline
GALL, Katrene	Saline	143F22, Saline
GALL, Stanley	Saline	143F22, Saline
GILBERT, Audrey	Ann Arbor	2-2634
GILBERT, Robert	Dexter	2-2981
GILBERT, Margaret	Dexter	2-2981
GILL, Donald	Ypsilanti	blank
GOLTZ, Rolland	Saline	122R3
GROEB, Mary Ann	Ann Arbor	181F14, Sal.

HAAS, Lillian	Ann Arbor	25-7825
HAAS, Margaret	Ann Arbor	25-7826
HAESSLER, Alvin	Manchester	blank
HAEUSSLER, Armin	Saline	147F23
HAEUSSLER, Emerson	Saline	147F24
HAEUSSLER, Victor	Manchester	blank
HAMILTON, Curtis	Northville	2106, S. Lyon
HENNEWALD, Harold	Stockbridge	47F12
HASHLEY, Joyce	Dexter	blank
HEARL, David	Ypsilanti	1592W4
HEIMERDINGER, Leon	Manchester	blank
HERTER, Erwin	Ann Arbor	25-7236
HERTER, Leon	Saline	blank
HERTER, LeRoy	Ann Arbor	25-7236
HERTER, Selma	Ann Arbor	25-7635
HERTER, Paul	Ann Arbor	25-7635
HERTER, Pauline	Saline	143F13, Saline
HUSTON, Della	Ann Arbor	2-5168
KLEIN, Alice	Saline	198F21
KLEIN, Linda	Saline	198F22
KOHLER, Dorothy	Clinton	142F3, Saline
KOHLER, Elwin	Saline	191F13
KOHLER, Helen	Saline	191F13
KOHL, Armin	Chelsea	5362, Chelsea
LAUBENGAYER, Arnold	Ann Arbor	25-7492
LEE, Wilbur	Stockbridge	48F12
LESSER, Carl	Dexter	3657
LESSER, Mary	Dexter	3657
LINDEMANN, Robert	Saline	149F13, Saline
LOY, Evelyn	Ann Arbor	25-7681
LUCKHARDT, Andrew	Ann Arbor	148F14, Saline
McCALLA, Virginia	Ann Arbor	25-8841
MAGNUSSEN, Jean	Ann Arbor	2-3074
NIEHAUS, Jack	Chelsea	7361
NIEHAUS, Kenneth	Chelsea	7361
NOWAK, Irma	Ann Arbor	8072
OTTOMAN, Joseph	Chelsea	blank
PITTMAN, Evelyn	Manchester	4038

RENZ, Elton	Ann Arbor	25-8716
RICHARDS, Genevieve	Ann Arbor	2-2634
RICHARDS, Mary	Ann Arbor	2-2635
ROBISON, Duane	Saline	Blank
RIBISON (sic), Reva	Saline	Blank
RUHLIG, Alice	Dexter	3652
SCHAIBLE, Gerhardt	Ann Arbor	25-7631
SMALLEY, Ray (Counselor)	Ypsilanti	1933J4
SMITH, Donald	Stockbridge	74F41
SMITH, Thelma	Ypsilanti	2162W
SODT, L'Dean	Manchester	6962
STAEBLER, Harold	Ann Arbor	25-7122
STEEB, Gretchen	Ann Arbor	6879
STIERLE, Norman	Ann Arbor	25-7126
STRIETER, Nelson	Ann Arbor	25-8715
TRINKLE, Doris	Chelsea	4060
TRINKLE, Robert	Chelsea	4061
WEBER, Wilma	Ann Arbor	blank
WIDMAYER, Clyde	Manchester	2633
WIDMAYER, Ruth	Manchester	2633
WIEDMAYER, Alvin	Saline	148F13
WIEDMAYER, Frederick	Ann Arbor	148F2

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IN MEMORIAM

PAUL D. HAYNES

16 September 1942 - 9 August 2021

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IN MEMORIAM

MARILYN GERRED SICHLER

20 March 1937 – 11 August 2024

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THEODORE D. FORD FAMILY BIBLE RECORD

This Bible is located at the Lenawee County Historical Museum, Adrian, Michigan. They have graciously granted permission to the Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County to hand copy and publish the family record and to place a copy in the GSWC Bible Record Registry. [*Ed. Note: please refer to the actual record for a precise transcription as this record is a recreation based on the handwritten notes of a GSWC volunteer.*]

The Holy Bible. New York: American Bible Society, 1867.

Family Record

Theodore D. Ford born May 7, 1832
Mary E. Stone born August 10, 1841
  married Oct. 6, 1858
Irving Ford died May 30, 1910
Cash Labounty died July 24, 1908
Sophia Downing died Nov 9 1888
Lillian L. Ford born Dec. 2. 1861
Jason Irving Ford born Sept. 1, 1864
Mattie C. Ford born Oct 11(?) 1866
Hal. C. Ford born Aug 19, 1875
Theo F. LaBounty born Oct. 5, 1888
Cashus I. LaBounty born Mar. 22, 1890
Earl R. LaBounty born June 13 1892

Sara Smiths first daughter born feb the 8th 1883
  second daughter born Sept 4th 1884
  third daughter born Dec. 3, 1886
  first son born June 14, 1891
Lillians children
  Nina Mae Wells born May 10, 1886
  Mary Wells born July 26, 1889
Flavious Stone Deshettes died June 2nd 1884 aged 78 years
Sara Stone Smith died July 24, 1911 aged 62
Mary Stone Ford died October 1, 1917 aged 75 years
Augustine Stone died June 26, 1866 aged 71 years and 22 days

[*An obituary was pasted here:*]
FORD – At the residence of W. R. Mann, Church Street on Wednesday, Dec. 20th Charlotte wife of the late Horace Ford, died in the 77th year of her age.[*1876 handwritten next to obituary*]

GSWC Bible Records Registry

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BOOK REVIEW OF BURIED SECRETS: LOOKING FOR FRANK AND IRMA

Reviewed By Marcia McCrary

This summer I received an ad for a new genealogy book titled: *Buried Secrets: Looking for Frank and Irma* which cleverly offered a free chapter, and I was hooked. The book, by Anne Hanson, was first published in 2022 by New England Books, LLC of Brookline, Massachusetts.

Anne's grandparents, the Frank and Irma of the subtitle, were very elusive about their past until one day when Anne's sister-in-law asked for details. To everyone's surprise they responded. The only problem was not a single fact could be verified! Despite repeated attempts over 20 years, nothing lined up.

Finally, after the grandparents had passed away, Anne's father agreed to let her look at the picture box that he had inherited. She then had a few clues to follow. Eventually she called several professional genealogists, thinking she needed help with records in New York. The last one suggested she could look up the information herself if she joined the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, where she would gain access to Heritage Quest. With the help of a cemetery picture showing readable names and dates, she began to piece together where her ancestors lived, and many of their buried secrets. Two things learned: 1) Even the most misleading information may have a kernel of truth; 2) Never give up.

I would highly recommend this book both for genealogy techniques and enjoying a good story.